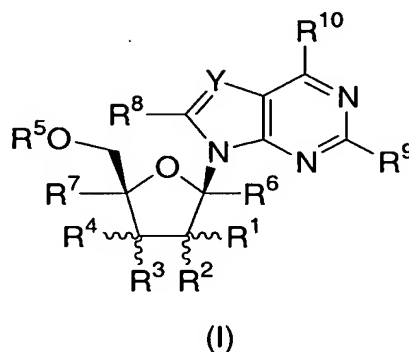


Amendment to the Claims:

Cancel Claims 11-14.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A compound of the structural formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein

n is 0, 1, or 2;

Y is N or C-R¹⁷;

R¹ is C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, or C₁₋₄ alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, or one to three fluorine atoms;

R² is hydrogen, amino, fluorine, hydroxy, mercapto, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, azido, halogen, hydroxy, mercapto, amino, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, and C₁₋₄ alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, or one to three fluorine atoms;

R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀ alkylcarbonyl, P₃O₉H₄, P₂O₆H₃, or P(O)R¹¹R¹²;

R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently hydrogen, methyl, hydroxymethyl, or fluoromethyl;

R⁸ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, halogen, cyano, carboxy, C₁₋₄ alkylloxycarbonyl, azido, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, hydroxy,

C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, or (C₁₋₄ alkyl)₀₋₂ aminomethyl;

R⁹ is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, amino,

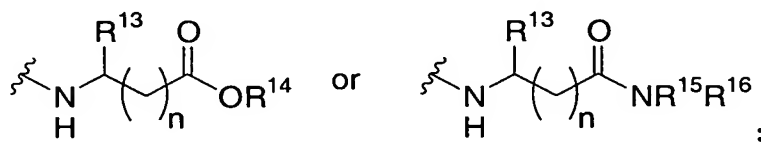
C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, C₃₋₆ cycloalkylamino, or

di(C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl)amino;

R¹⁰ is C₁₋₄ alkylamino, wherein the alkyl moiety is substituted with one to three halogen atoms; -

OCH₂CH₂SC(=O)C₁₋₄ alkyl; -OCH₂O(C=O)OC₁₋₄ alkyl;

-OCH(C₁₋₄ alkyl)O(C=O)C₁₋₄ alkyl; or an amino acyl residue having structural formula



R¹³ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, or phenyl C₀₋₂ alkyl;

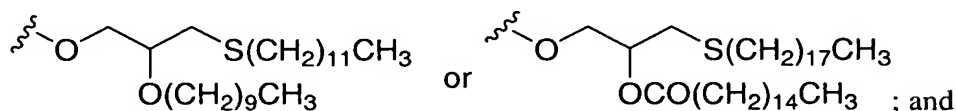
R¹⁴ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁸, and R¹⁹ are each independently hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R¹¹ and R¹² are each independently hydroxy, -OCH₂CH₂SC(=O)C₁₋₄ alkyl,

-OCH₂O(C=O)OC₁₋₄ alkyl, -NHCH(C₀₋₄ alkyl)CO₂C₁₋₃ alkyl,

-OCH(C₁₋₄ alkyl)O(C=O)C₁₋₄ alkyl,

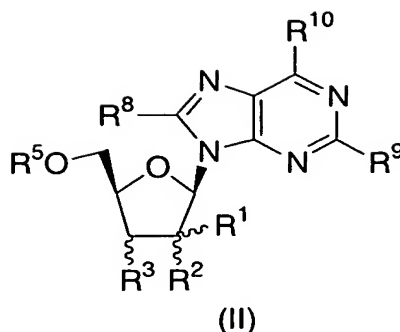


R¹⁷ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, NHCONH₂, CONR¹⁸R¹⁹, CSNR¹⁸R¹⁹, COOR¹⁸,

C(=NH)NH₂, hydroxy, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, or C₁₋₃ alkyl;

wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three groups independently selected from halogen, amino, hydroxy, carboxy, and C₁₋₃ alkoxy.

2. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of the structural formula II:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

wherein R³ is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, amino, or C₁₋₄ alkoxy;

R¹ is C₁₋₃ alkyl, wherein alkyl is optionally substituted with hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ alkylthio, or one to three fluorine atoms;

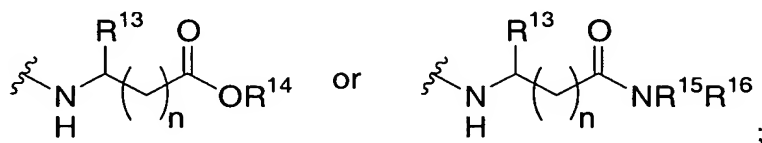
R² is hydroxy, fluoro, or C₁₋₃ alkoxy;

R⁵ is hydrogen, P₃O₉H₄, P₂O₆H₃, or PO₃H₂;

R⁸ is hydrogen, amino, or C₁₋₄ alkylamino;

R⁹ is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, or C₃₋₆ cycloalkylamino;

R¹⁰ is C₁₋₃ alkylamino, wherein the alkyl moiety is substituted with one to three fluorine atoms; or an amino acyl residue having structural formula



R¹³ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, or phenyl C₀₋₂ alkyl;

R¹⁴ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and

R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are each independently hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl.

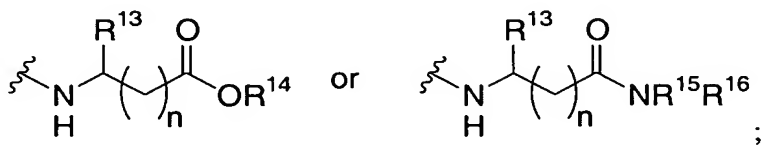
3. (original) The compound of Claim 2 wherein

R¹ is methyl, fluoromethyl, hydroxymethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, or aminomethyl;

R² is hydroxy, fluoro, or methoxy;

R⁵ is hydrogen or P₃O₉H₄;

R⁹ is hydrogen, fluoro, hydroxy, or amino;



R¹⁴ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and

4. (original) The compound of Claim 3 selected from the group consisting of:

2-[2-amino-6-(2,2,2-trifluoroethylamino)-9-(2-C-methyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-9H-purine;

3-[2-amino-9-(2-C-methyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-9H-purin-6-yl-amino]propionic acid methyl ester;
and

2-[2-amino-9-(2-C-methyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-9H-purin-6-yl-amino]-acetamide;

and the corresponding 5'-triphosphates;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1

6. (original) A method of treating RNA-dependent RNA virus infection comprising

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein said RNA-dependent RNA virus

infection is hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.

8. (original) The method of Claim 7 in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of another agent active against HCV.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said agent active against HCV is ribavirin; levovirin; thymosin alpha-1; interferon- β ; an inhibitor of NS3 serine protease; an inhibitor of inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase; interferon- α or pegylated interferon- α , alone or in combination with ribavirin or levovirin.

10. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said agent active against HCV is interferon- α or pegylated interferon- α , alone or in combination with ribavirin.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)